

**Massachusetts
Forest Stewardship
Program**

**Cost-sharing Application
EOEA Funding**

Forest Stewardship Plan

Landowners:

Forest Stewardship Program

433 West St.

Amherst, MA 01002

(413) 256-1201

Please read side two, then complete this section and mail to:

Landowner

Property

Name _____

Town _____

Soc. Sec. No. or T.I.N. (required) _____
(indicate whose ssn)

Road _____

Mailing address: _____

County _____

Estimated total acres of property _____

Acres to be covered by plan _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

Ownership Type

Please check the listings that apply to this ownership

Email _____

____ individual or joint

____ corporation or business

____ non-profit, land trust

____ conservation restriction

____ non-profit, other

____ CH61 enrollment planned

Plan preparer (if known) _____

____ group or association

____ CH61A " "

Landowner Statement & Signature

I agree to keep the land under the Stewardship Plan in forest cover during the 10 year life of the Plan. Implementing my Stewardship Plan is voluntary. However, when I undertake management activities, I agree to follow the Plan. I can amend the Plan at any time consistent with Program guidelines. If I withdraw the Plan from the Program during the 10 year life of the Plan, I will repay the cost share I received for the Plan.

I certify that I do not own more than 1,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland in the United States or any territory or possession of the United States. _____ (initial here) **OR** I own more than 1,000 but less than 5,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland and will contact my DCR Service Forester about obtaining a waiver. _____ (initial here).

Landowner signature _____ Date _____

For Departmental Use:

Approval

Extent approved (acres) _____

Initial cost-share approved (\$) _____

Comments _____

____ I certify that this application meets with eligibility requirements of MA Forest Stewardship Program.

Disapproval

____ Ineligible property or ownership

____ No funds available: keep on file

DCR Authorizing signature _____ Date _____

About Stewardship Plans...

The Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's **Forest Stewardship Program** supports you in your desire to practice long-term guardianship of your woodlands. Working on a ten-year management plan with a Massachusetts licensed forester offers an excellent opportunity for you to increase your knowledge of your forest property.

A Stewardship Plan considers all aspects of forest resource management. Soil and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, timber and other wood products, and outdoor recreation are among the many factors to be taken into account. A plan documents management decisions and practices designed to maintain the land in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners. It specifies actions that will increase the environmental and economic values of your land. Harvesting wood products is not a program requirement, though it may be an important means to achieve your stated objectives.

This program, funded by the U.S. Forest Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or marital status.

Cost Share Information:

Who is eligible – Private landowners, including individuals, trusts, land trusts, non-profit and corporate entities are all eligible. Leaseholders are also eligible. Not eligible: Entities principally engaged in the processing of wood products; properties with a permanent conservation restriction, corporations with publicly held stock.

What land cover is eligible – Minimum of 10 qualified acres required, 7 of which must be wooded. Abandoned fields, wetlands, and power line rights of way can also be included in the plan. Not eligible as cost-sharable acres are: active hay fields, cropland, commercial blueberries, Christmas trees, orchards, houses and outbuildings and the lawns and landscaped areas around them.

Cost share is only for new management plans. Re-certifications and amendments to existing plans (CH61, Tree Farm, etc.) are not eligible to receive cost-share. The exception to this rule is the case of a new landowner that inherited a plan from the previous owner. The cost-share application must be approved by DCR before work on the plan begins.

Special reimbursement rates – The following reimbursement rates for Stewardship Plan preparation apply only to towns in designated Executive Office of Environmental Affairs focus areas. To see the list of eligible towns, go to: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/steward.htm> Go to that same url to obtain the reimbursement rate and an application for towns outside of EOE focus areas, or you can contact a Department of Conservation and Recreation Service Forester (1-800 783-2311).

The reimbursement is the lesser of 100% of your bill or..... 10-36 ac. = \$700

37-572 ac. = \$700 +\$11.00/ac over 36 acres

573-1000ac.= \$6,600

Cost-share payments are considered taxable by the IRS and must be reported on your income tax returns.

The approval notice will specify an estimated cost share amount based upon the estimated acreage the plan will cover. The reimbursement you receive will be calculated from your plan and the number of acres actually addressed by the completed plan. The formula we use allows our program to make a firm commitment to you (and many others), yet stay within our allotted budget. It is not meant to suggest what a good Stewardship Plan should cost in your particular case – there are too many variables at play. Many factors affect the cost of a plan: access to the parcel, terrain, variety of habitats and forest cover types, availability of maps, surveys and other documents, presence of good boundary indicators, and the complexity of your goals for the land you love. Consultants' fees also vary. Take the time you need to find a professional you feel comfortable working with and who understands your needs.